



for the greatest good

# blue mountains FOREST RESILIENCY PROJECT

BLUE MOUNTAINS RESTORATION STRATEGY | JUNE 2016

## The Proposed Action... where have we been?

Darcy Weseman, Public Affairs (541) 278-3755

The Forest Resiliency Project is a large-scale effort to restore more than a half million acres of forests on the Ochoco, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. The **proposed action** for the Forest Resiliency Project was released on February 5, 2016, for a 60-day scoping period. This proposal included approximately 610,000 acres of vegetation treatments (logging and thinning) and prescribed fire treatments across the three National Forests in areas with the greatest restoration need, including:

- 118,000 acres of treatment on the Ochoco National Forest
- 212,000 acres of treatment on the Umatilla National Forest
- 280,000 acres of treatment on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

The scoping comment period closed on April 5, 2016, resulting in **184 comments** on the proposed action. All scoping comments can be read in the public reading room at:

<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//ReadingRoom?Project=48582>

## Public Engagement... what we heard

The Forest Service hosted **eight public engagement sessions** on the proposed action in communities surrounding the project areas to share information about the project and identify key concerns from the public to consider in project development.

**More than 170 people participated** in the public engagement sessions. Additional engagement efforts during scoping included presentations at collaborative meetings, meeting with staff from three Tribes, and meeting with other interested stakeholders. Some of the key themes that came out of scoping comments and the public engagement sessions include:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ⇒ Wildlife habitat concerns                          | ⇒ Protection and enhancement of cultural resources                                 |
| ⇒ Retaining old growth trees                         | ⇒ Support and concerns about harvesting large trees                                |
| ⇒ Support and concerns about existing road densities | ⇒ Concerns with size/scope of the project and implementation of the NEPA           |
| ⇒ Concerns with treatments in moist/cold forests     | ⇒ Support for protection of public/private landscape interfaces from damaging fire |



Members of the public share ideas and thoughts on the Forest Resiliency Project at the Walla Walla, Wash. meeting

*Do you want to read the input others shared at the engagement sessions?*

*All of the notes and meeting handouts from the engagement sessions are posted online at:*

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/bluemountainsforestresiliency/publicengagement>

## Restoring Resiliency... the path forward

The planning team is now using your comments to finalize the significant issues identified in scoping. Those significant issues will help the planning team develop alternatives within the proposed treatment areas to restore portions of the Ochoco, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests to more sustainable and resilient conditions.

**Your feedback matters!** You will have another opportunity to provide further input on this project when the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is released, which is anticipated later this summer. A Final Environmental Impact Statement and draft Record of Decision(s) for each Forest is anticipated in the Winter of 2016.

The decision process for implementing the Forest Resiliency Project is yet to be determined, but will be up to each individual Forest. This environmental analysis can be used to support future decisions at the Forest level, or on smaller landscapes, as determined by the decision-maker.

Check out our website for project information, maps and more!

Check out the Forest Resiliency Blog!

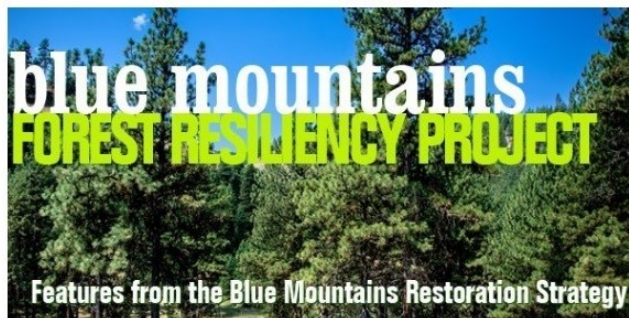
*Brought to you by Sustainable Northwest & the U.S. Forest Service*

<http://www.sustainablenorthwest.org/what-we-do/success-stories/features-from-the-blue-mountains-restoration-strategy>

### PROJECTS AND STORIES

#### Features from the Blue Mountains Restoration Strategy, which includes

*A series of twelve articles that highlight the environmental and economic challenges and opportunities present in the Blue Mountains region, with updates from the Blue Mountains Forest Resiliency Project.*



### FOLLOW OUR PROJECT:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/bluemountainsforestresiliency>

Blue Mountains Restoration Strategy  
72510 Coyote Rd.  
Pendleton, OR 97801



for the greatest good